

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

SPRING 2009 PROGRESS REPORT

Greetings ~

We are pleased to send you the latest in our series of Progress Reports for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. We trust that you and yours fared well over the winter and are looking forward to a bright spring!

This has indeed been a time of change, and the new year promises to bring more change. It's been a challenging but productive year for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and its administration, staff, partners, volunteers, and friends.

All of us involved with the NPNHT for more than a few years have seen our share of challenges, yet those challenges have been met with enthusiasm, hard work, and optimism. It is our genuine hope that the upcoming year brings positive change, with a renewed commitment to the preservation and protection of the Trail and its history.

We have many accomplishments to celebrate, and it has been a great honor for me as Administrator to work with everyone connected to the NPNHT management, and a great pleasure to serve the publics and assist in educating them and sharing with them. My time as Administrator has been the pinnacle of my government service.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt thanks and congratulations to you all on a successful year of growth and achievement. I anticipate even bigger and more exciting things for us in the upcoming year.

**Sandi McFarland, Administrator
Nez Perce National Historic Trail**



The 4th Annual Nez Perce Ride to Freedom:

The three-day commemorative trail ride, sanctioned by the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada (ApHCC), was held June 28-30 near Fort Walsh in Saskatchewan, Canada. During and after the battle at Bear Paw, about 250 Nez Perce managed to escape the encampment and travel some 40 miles north into Canada. A number of those under Chief White Bird left the battlefield the night of October 5 after Joseph's surrender to the Army.



Sandi and Rosa at Fort Walsh

Fort Walsh and the nearby visitors' center are in the Cypress Hills, at the site where Lakota Sioux Chief Sitting Bull, Nez Perce Chief White Bird, and the other Nez Perce met with the Northwest Mounted Police (now known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) to discuss the circumstances under which the Nez Perce would be allowed to stay.

The Nez Perce Ride to Freedom commemorates the flight into Canada. At the invitation of the ApHCC, Sandi McFarland and Rosa Yearout crossed the border to “Grandmother's Country” to ride with the Canadian group in the area where many Nimiipuu crossed in 1877.

Sandi and Rosa gave several presentations on the Nimiipuu Trail and the Appaloosa horse. Details of the Nez Perce history at Fort Walsh are online at nps.gov/archive/biho/fort_walsh.htm and more information about the Appaloosa Horse Club of Canada is available online at appaloosa.ca

Annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride:

The 2008 CJTR launched from the assembly camp at Lolo Hot Springs and descended through the Bitterroot Valley to a ranch near Stevensville, Montana. Sunday evening included an orientation for new riders, a Nez Perce blessing, dinner, and musical entertainment. The CJTR is a “progressive” ride, covering about 100 miles each year, and the camp moves every day with the assistance of drivers and support crews. This year's ride will run from July 19-25, beginning near Darby and ending up at the Big Hole Battlefield west of Wisdom, Montana. Contact the trail ride coordinator, Kevin Pullen, at [<trailrides@appaloosa.com>](mailto:trailrides@appaloosa.com) for more information on the 2009 ride.

44th Annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride:



Kevin Pullen, trailride coordinator, briefs riders the night before the first day of the CJTR



Riders, drivers, and support staff gathered at Lolo Hot Springs the night before the trail ride began -- a fun reunion for many of the riders

A number of Nez Perce riders and family and friends make the Chief Joseph Trail Ride an annual event. Jon and Rosa Yearout and friends, along with many members of the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club, participated in the ride again last year. Weather was chilly at the higher elevations, and parts of the ride were challenging, but friendships are made and renewed each year on the ride. Some years as many as 300 riders participate.



Seymour Young Dog offered a blessing



Horses on the picket line at Lolo Hot Springs

Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club:

“The NPAPHC spent Labor Day weekend with youth, young adults, and our sik'em (horses) on a special trail ride on the Kuseyne'iskit (the Lolo Trail),” reports Rosa Yearout. “The 'Nez Perce on the Lewis and Clark Trail' project was funded by a grant from the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The trail ride is only part of an ongoing project. This helps our young people to learn more about horses, history, and their culture by visiting special sites along the trail, including Chimney Butte, the Smoking Place, Indian Post Office, and other important cultural sites along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.”



Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club clinic

Club members participate in an ongoing community service project picking up trash along the two miles of U.S. Highway 95 between mileposts 295 and 297 along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Auto Tour Route.

Several NPAPHC members rode on the annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride, which began last year at Lolo Hot Springs and concluded on a ranch near Stevensville, Montana.



Zack Terry was selected as one of the youth to go on the ride with the Chief Joseph Foundation, and Jalessa Oyenque again served as the CJF wrangler. Four others represented the CJF youth and the Nez Perce Tribe, including Lucy Samuels, who is a Junior Scout for the ride.



Loretta Sobotta and Prairie Dancer; their eighth year on the CJTR

The NPAPHC's Big Hole Youth Memorial Trail Ride coincided with the tribal memorial ceremony on the August 9 anniversary of the battle there. This four-day ride was originally scheduled for 2007, but a wildfire closed the Battlefield and the ride was postponed to 2008. “We started the 50-mile ride at Lost Trail Hot Springs at the bottom of Gibbon Pass,” said Rosa Yearout, “and we ended the ride at Skinner Meadows near Jackson, Montana. There we shared personal prayer intentions and blessed the land and those buried in this area; this is where the Nimiipuu camped and buried their dead after Big Hole. A portion of the ride was on brand new trail built for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail near the Big Hole Battlefield by an all-Nez Perce crew working for the Nez Perce

Tribe. We were proud of the good trail that they constructed, and glad to be one of the first groups to ride it."

"On the day of the ceremony, all of the Nez Perce riders dressed in traditional regalia; we rode three miles from Placer Creek to the Battlefield. After the memorial we gave a presentation at the Visitor's Center covering the Nez Perce Trail, the Appaloosa Horse, and the new Nez Perce Registry Horse. Each of the youth did a great job in relating a portion of the events of 1877 that happened along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

For more information on the NPApHC call Emmett Taylor, Jr. at (208)843-7144 ext. 3544.



Some of the Nez Perce youth and horses at the Big Hole Battlefield visitors' center

NPNHT Interagency meeting, Bozeman, Montana:

Participants at the April 22 meeting included more than a dozen representatives from the USFS, NPS, and BLM, including Regional and WO staff, and Sandi McFarland, NPNHT Administrator. Discussions centered on the NPNHT website, its evolution and future. The site typically receives some 10,000 hits a day from 32 countries; NPNHT staff field about 30,000 requests for information each month. The website reaches a worldwide audience with the Nez Perce story, and has resulted in countless valuable contacts, from youth groups to artists to educational resources. Re-formatting is still under way, and new additions will include an improved virtual tour.

The group reviewed budgets, along with Challenge Cost Share goals and objectives, and guidelines for cost-share awards. Our interagency panel met in January to review and rank these projects. For FY08 projects, 11 applications were submitted and 9 were funded for a total of \$83,100 in projects.

We received 13 challenge cost share applications for the upcoming year, and we have \$100,000 funded for CCS projects in FY09. Our interagency panel met in January to review and rank these projects. The review panel included representatives from the NPS, BLM, FWS, and USFS. Joint Venture programmatic agreements and interagency agreements are funded separately.

The update to the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) was discussed, including the upcoming Community Involvement Plan; we are planning a series of information meetings that will give the USFS a sense of the state of the trail, provide a framework for collaboration, and strengthen partnerships. This will not involve a formal NEPA process. The revision and finalization of the Plan is on

hold until we are able to fill the advertised PAO position to assist with the next steps of holding public meetings to gather information from our publics.

An archaeology study of the Camas Meadows battlefield is under way; the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office is compiling a detailed report on this project. Also, the Cottonwood field office, along with the Lewis & Clark Trail and the NPNHT, are completing survey work in the Kamiah area on a section of trail with very deep tread.

Other meeting notes:

The second day of the meeting on April 23 included non-governmental organizations, partners, and individuals. Much of the day was spent discussing the update to the Comprehensive Management Plan, including assessments and information gathering and a session with participants for locations and public meetings concerned with the Plan update.

Nez Perce Trail Foundation News:

The Foundation website at nezperctrail.net has been recently revamped and improved! It features a much more user-friendly layout and includes a newsletter page at nezperctrail.net/iskitpe.html and a new blog at nezperctrail.net/blog/



The Foundation has participated in a number of projects with a variety of partners in support of the NPNHT.

One project involves the Appaloosa Horse Club Museum in Moscow, Idaho, which will feature three display signs explaining the relationship of the Appaloosa Horse Club to the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and highlighting the annual Chief Joseph Trail Ride sponsored by the club.



At the Big Hole Battlefield, improvements were made to the west entrance with the help of partners from the NPNHT

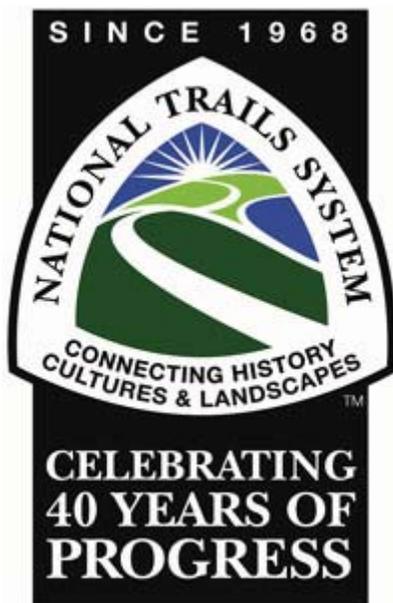
Administration and the National Park Service. This west entrance will serve as a terminus for a newly constructed equine and pedestrian portion of the Trail from Gibbons Pass. The route was constructed by a Nez Perce Tribal youth crew. A hitching rail, a new gate, and interpretive signs were installed with the assistance of a crew from the University of San Diego Extension at Sacramento, California.

Members of this crew included history teachers taking a class on the Nez Perce Trail taught by Duane Hauge.

Another impressive project, at Camas Meadows, features metal silhouettes of three Nez Perce warriors on horseback, representing the Nez Perce raid on the U.S. Army pack string. The display provides a dramatic highlight for visitors at the entrance to the battleground along Highway 22 west of Dubois, Idaho, on the Old Fort Henry/Gold Loop Scenic Byway. The metal silhouettes were designed and fabricated by Dan Jones of Salmon, Idaho, and funded by the City of Dubois and the NPNHT Administration.

11. NOVEMBER, 2008 -- LEWISTOWN, MT: Historic Preservation Officer Duane Ferdinand said the city has been working with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation since the summer of 2007 to construct and display interpretive signs illustrating the flight of 1877. “The signs will draw a lot of interest,” he said, “not just from local residents, but also visitors to the area who may not be aware of their history through here.” Three 3x2-foot panels will be installed at Kiwanis Park, on Highway 87 on the west side of Lewistown. Organizers are planning a dedication ceremony for May, which is National Historic Month. The *Great Falls Tribune* reported that the Foundation also hopes to put up interpretive signs along the Missouri River near Cow Island, at James Kipp State Park, at Riverside Park in Laurel, and outside Cody, Wyoming.

40th Anniversary of the National Trails System:

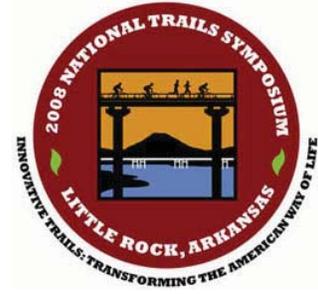


On Thursday, October 2, an anniversary celebration was held at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. Participants gathered to honor the foresight and wisdom of those who crafted a NATIONAL SYSTEM OF TRAILS four decades ago – and also to honor those whose labors, organizational skills, and gifts of time, money, and talent have produced the 50,000-mile National Trails System that we enjoy today. Bart Smith presented a slide show featuring his 16-year project of hiking and photographing all eight National Scenic Trails; he gathered nearly 100,000 photos during this sojourn. A photo collection from the NPNHT was also featured at this event.

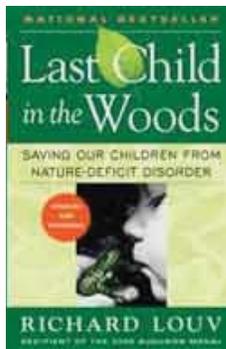
A 10-year initiative called the “Decade of Trails” was launched to bring attention to and gain support for completing and enhancing the entire National Trails System.

19th National Trails Symposium:

The symposium provided an opportunity for the worldwide trails community to come together for an inspirational and educational conference. Dozens of speakers and keynote presenters addressed the trails community with presentations from across America.



A keynote address was presented by Steve Elkinton, who has served as the National Trails System Program Leader in the Washington Office of the National Park Service since 1989. He's been actively involved in policies related to National Scenic and Historic Trails and is a tremendous advocate of our the National Trails System.



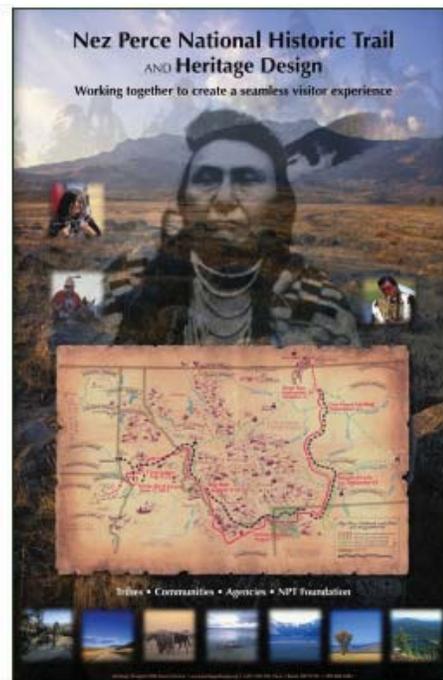
The closing address was presented by Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*. The recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal, Louv identified a phenomenon we all knew existed but couldn't quite articulate: nature-deficit disorder.

Since its initial publication, his book has created a national conversation about the disconnect between children and nature, and his message has galvanized an international movement. Now, three years later, we have reached a tipping point; his book has inspired “Leave No Child Inside” initiatives across the country.

Called an “an absolute must-read” by the *Boston Globe* and “too tantalizing to ignore” by *Audubon* magazine, this inspiring book proves children need nature as much as nature needs children.

NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland attended the symposium as both a sponsor and exhibitor. She participated in the “parade of trails” with Jim Evans, representative from the Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

The NPNHT included two posters in the poster session; they were displayed in designated areas to offer information on the Trail to the symposium attendees. The NPNHT story was shared during different time slots during the symposium, and provided an exhibit in the “Creative Crossings Photo Gallery,” for which a poster was also designed. McFarland said



that recent years have seen the construction of some strikingly innovative trail bridges; she met with equestrian user groups including the Backcountry Horsemen, and the R9 Regional Trails Coordinator, Leon La Vigne. Discussions included equestrian and trail-related issues, along with responsible use and outdoor ethics.

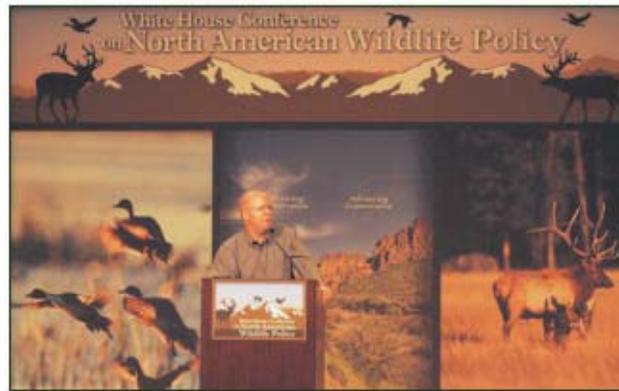
McFarland also attended the National Trails Training Partnerships, a two-day session on training opportunities for the trails community in a networking environment. Prior to the conference she attended the USFS Trails Coordinators meetings. More information is available online at americantrails.org



Sandi McFarland, Smokey Bear, and Jim Evans

Conference on North American Wildlife Policy:

The White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy was held the first week of October in Reno. Participants included Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, Ed Schafer, Secretary of Agriculture, and Jim Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Conference attendees discussed with government officials, organization leaders, and peers the development of the Ten-Year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan.



Jim Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, speaks at the conference.

Topics included:

- Coordination at state, tribal and federal levels
- Ensuring dependable funding for wildlife conservation
- Perpetuating hunter traditions: education, recruitment and retention
- Maintaining access to public and private lands
- Coordinating oil and gas development and wildlife conservation
- Impacts of climate change on wildlife

NPNHT Administrator Sandi McFarland was invited by White House staff to participate and she assisted in development of the policy. "The next step will be for CEQ to issue the Action Plan on hunting and wildlife conservation," said McFarland. "It will include specific actions for federal agencies." She said plans include increasing access to about 7 million acres of CRP lands, and that restoration of another 4 million acres of wetlands is targeted over the next five years.

McFarland also attended the Inter-Agency Outdoor Ethics Conference in March in Desert Hot Springs, California. Participants included staff from the NPS, BLM, USFS, Tread Lightly! and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

Topics included the Wilderness Rider Program, liability policies, Children & Nature, educational materials and courses, and interagency collaboration. The conference featured several field training sessions. McFarland is on the planning committee for the next conference in FY2010.

**12th Conference on National Scenic & Historic Trails
"Gearing up for the Decade for the National
Trails: Outreach, Protection and Capacity"
July 12-15, 2009 - Missoula, Montana**

*" ... on an elevated point we halted by the request of the Indians a few minutes and smoked the pipe ... from this place we had an extensive view of these stupendous mountains ... to one unacquainted with them it would have seemed impossible ever to have escaped."
~ Captain Meriwether Lewis, June 27, 1806*



Hosted by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and assisted by the Nez Perce Trail Foundation and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance

Smoking Place, on the Lolo Trail, overlooks the Bitterroot Mountains along the Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails in eastern Idaho. *Wendy Raney photo*

Join us in the shadow of the Bitterroot Mountains to launch the "Decade for the National Trails." Workshops will explore the ways we will accomplish the three goals we've set for the National Trails Decade:

- Expanding outreach about the National Trails to all Americans
- Protecting natural and cultural resources; completing on-the-ground trails
- Increasing the capacity of public agencies and non-profit organizations to sustain the trails and their resources

NEW FEATURES FOR THIS CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

- Discussion session for non-profit organization members to share challenges, concerns, obstacles, successes – and learn from one another
- Focus on involving younger people in our scenic and historic trails
- A community service project to leave the place we visit a little better than we found it

JULY 11 SATURDAY

PNTS Board and Leadership Council meetings and Capacity Building training, Become a Tread Lightly Trainer. Tread Lightly will offer a course at no charge from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, continental breakfast and luncheon included.

Join us for an evening with area Tribes at a traditional dinner and cultural experience at 7:00 pm

JULY 12 SUNDAY

All day at Travelers' Rest State Park, Lolo, Montana

- Conduct a Community Service Project
- Travelers' Rest volunteers and staff will host a half-day of walking tours and workshops related to our conference theme
- Barbecue
- Evening speaker on archaeology at Travelers' Rest

JULY 13 MONDAY

- Plenary Session and workshops, non-profit and agency staff meetings
- Bart Smith presents his "Walking Down the Dream" journey along all eight National Scenic Trails
- Oregon-California Trails Association will present a sneak preview of its film "In Pursuit of a Dream," which follows a wagon train of young people headed to Oregon

JULY 14 TUESDAY

- Historic and Scenic Trails Caucus meetings
- Workshops and Closing Plenary Session
- Awards banquet, raffle and auction

JULY 15 WEDNESDAY

All-day field trips include presentations and discussions related to the three workshop tracks

- **Big Hole Valley:** Visit the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Reserve and Chief Joseph Pass where Lewis and Clark, Nez Perce, and Continental Divide trails converge. Spend several hours at the Big Hole Battlefield.
- **Blackfoot River:** Learn the history of the "Road to the Buffalo" and discuss cooperative conservation measures in the valley with leaders of the "Blackfoot Challenge" on this whitewater float trip
- **Lolo Trail:** Join archaeologists and trail experts for a day of hiking and exploration of the routes followed by Lewis and Clark in 1805 and the Nez Perce in 1877. Discuss what it takes to balance recreational needs with cultural preservation and how to integrate the interpretation of two historic trails on the same route. Join us for a Native American luncheon and cultural presentations at Lolo Pass.

JULY 16-18

Post-convention field trips

- Big Hole Valley (planned by Continental Divide Trail Alliance and USFS)
- Upper Missouri River float trip (planned by the BLM)

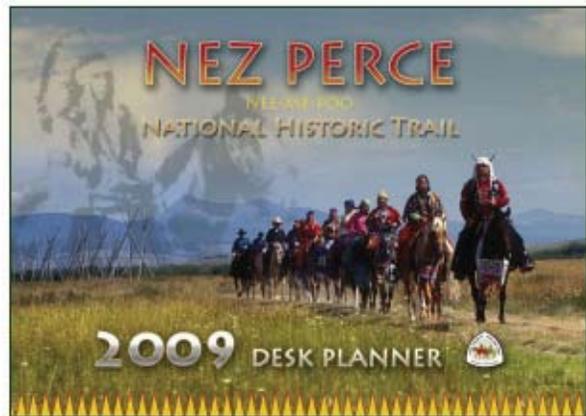
Make your reservations at the Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula by emailing reservations@himissoula.com or by calling (800)399-0408. Use group code NSH to receive our group rates of \$106 per night. The cut-off date is June 18.

Estimated conference costs: Registration \$75 (late registration \$125); food and activities \$290; all-day field trips \$50 to \$75

nationaltrailspartnership.org/issues_index.asp

2009 NPNHT Desk Planner:

The annual desk planner was produced and distributed this year. This popular product features images from the Trail by Harold Pfeiffer and others, along with historic quotes associated with the Nez Perce and the NPNHT. Call Sandi McFarland at (208)476-8334 or email smcfarland01@fs.fed.us if you'd like to be added to the list for distribution.



Kaya, American Girl:

The Southwest Branch Library's American Girl Kaya Group from Pensacola, Florida contacted us through our website to learn more about Nez Perce history and culture. They made parfleches and fruit leather from activity descriptions they found on our website. Mary Grace Reeves is the moderator of the American Girl Book Club for the group.



Southwest Branch Library's
American Girl Kaya Group
from Pensacola, Florida

Kaya, one of the most popular of the American Girl dolls, is a girl of the Nez Perce tribe. Kaya's full name is *Kaya'aton'my*, or “she who arranges rocks.” Kaya was introduced in 2002, and several Nez Perce members worked with the company on her creation. *Qe'ci'yew'yew* (thank you) to the Pensacola girls for sharing your activities with us!

Oregon Historical Trail Advisory Council:

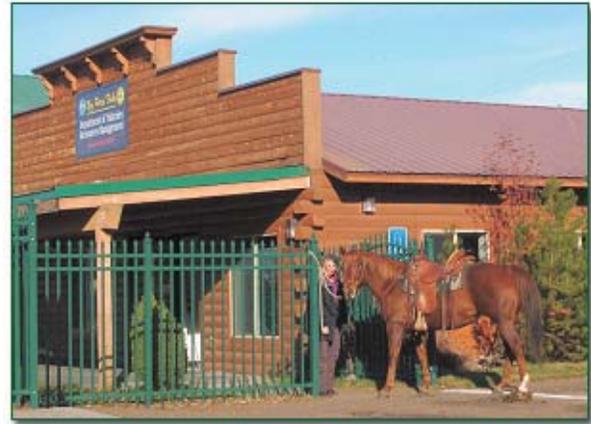
A September field trip with the Oregon Historical Trail Advisory Council began in Wallowa County at the new State Heritage site; participants visited the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite, the Joseph Canyon Overlook, Buckhorn, and the Indian Village site. Tim Nitz with NPS and Joe McCormack provided the group with an excellent historical overview during the trip. Several council members had remarked about the lack of signage related to the NPNHT near Enterprise or Joseph, and thus appreciated recent and upcoming projects in the county.



Joe McCormack (Nez Perce Tribal member) sharing oral history of the Nimípuu traveling between the Imnaha and Snake River canyons and the Wallowa Valley following the seasons to hunt, fish and gather. (Buckhorn Lookout on the Adventure Route)
Photo by Cindy Sloan.

The Nez Perce Tribe and the NPNHT Administration and others are coordinating a cost-share project and gathering feedback from tribal elders. The project includes orientation signs, and discussion is ongoing regarding another site for an interpretive sign near the lake.

The Tribe has purchased a property on Main Street in Joseph, the former “carriage house,” and it’s being considered as a site for an interpretive display. The building currently houses a field office of the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management (DFRM), and Cindy Sloan has been known to ride her Quarterhorse, Lena, to work.



Nez Perce Tribe DFRM Office in Joseph

For more information, contact Cindy Sloan with the Nez Perce Tribe DFRM at (541)432-2512 or check the OHTAC website at oregon.gov/oprd/hcd/ohtac.shtml or call the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Heritage Programs Division at (503)986-0681.

Trail Projects in Wallowa County:

The Wallowa Mountains Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails has worked with the U.S. Forest Service and other organizations to clear and maintain trails to ensure continued public access to many wild and scenic areas in Wallowa County. In September, working with Cycle Oregon, they cleared 17 miles of hiking/biking trails in one day in the McCully Basin, Wallowa Lake, and Mount Howard trail systems.



One of their ongoing projects, according to a report by the *La Grande Observer*, is the marking and clearing of the Nez Perce Trail in Wallowa County. Working with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation, their goal is to help with the development of the trail on the ground. This includes opening the trail for users and installing interpretive material at historic sites. This year the Wallowa Mountains Chapter cleared and marked seven miles of the trail from Thomason Meadows to Buckhorn. In order to accomplish this, the group gained permission from private landowner Jack McClaran of Enterprise.

“The Nee-Me-Poo Trail gets lost in there from Cow Creek to Lone Pine Saddle on the Snake,” McClaran said. “The first marker is at Willow Springs, three miles from Cow Creek. Quite a few hikers go in there and pick up the trail there.”

The group hopes to mark the trail down to Eureka Bar, and back up the Imnaha to Cow Creek. All members are taught “Leave No Trace” camping practices, and trail etiquette is strongly emphasized. For more information, call Tara Baker at (541)886-3302. More information on the Oregon Equestrian Trails organization is online at oregonequestriantrails.org

Camas – A Sumptuous Treat

Lewis and Clark created the first written record of the camas in 1805, when the Nez Perce offered roasted camas bulbs to the half-starved explorers after they had crossed the Continental Divide. Lewis noted that the flowers were the color of “a lake of fine clear water” and called the earthen-oven-baked roots a “sumptuous treat.”

According to the *Boise Weekly*, when the first white settlers came to Moscow, Idaho, in the 1860s, they called the area “Hog Heaven” because their pigs loved digging up and eating the camas bulbs. The pigs destroyed much of the camas in the area, and much of the rest of the camas prairie was converted to wheat fields.

Nez Perce tribal member Gwen Carter says that today the isolated pockets of camas in central Idaho are harder to find than ever before. She and her family still search out and dig camas bulbs at least once a year, and they roast them in the same pit they've used for four generations.

Along with her own roasting, Carter has also worked as a camas evangelist of sorts, introducing schoolchildren to the traditional dish and demonstrating cooking techniques at the annual Camas Festival in Weippe.

The festival entertains visitors while encouraging awareness of the trail systems in the area. With speakers and interpretive programs, organizers have promoted opportunities for Nez Perce people to become actively involved in the stewardship, management, and preservation of the NPNHT.

Held over Memorial Day weekend, the annual Camas Festival in Weippe is sponsored by Nez Perce National Historical Park, the Idaho Humanities Council, the Nez Perce National Historical Trail, and the Weippe Community Club.

A schedule of events for the 2009 festival is online at pierce-weippechamber.com



New Book Details U.S. War on the Nez Perce:

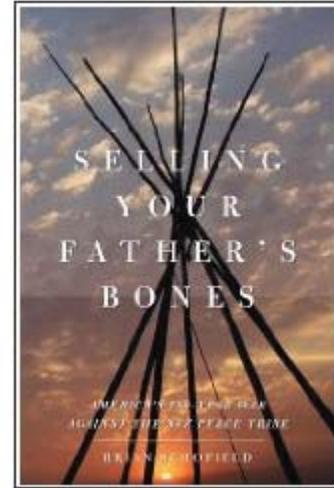
Selling Your Father's Bones:

America's 140-Year War Against the Nez Perce Tribe

by Brian Schofield. Simon & Schuster, \$26

from *Publishers Weekly*:

This account of the Nez Perce's trials is a painful tale well told. British journalist Schofield writes a history of this Columbia River Valley tribe down to its present-day remnant, confined to a modest Idaho reservation. Casting a wide net, he also describes white settlement in the Northwest, emphasizing its devastation of wildlife, soil, rivers, and forests. The Nez Perce's troubles began in the 1850s when the U.S. began insisting the tribe make room for white settlers. The author recounts 20 years of coercion and broken treaties until 1877, when the tribe was ordered out of its homeland entirely. In defiance of the ordered confinement to a Christian reservation, Nez Perce leaders led their people on a heroic flight across Idaho and Montana, inflicting humiliating defeats on pursuing soldiers, but ending in a tragic surrender. America evicted the tribe in favor of that legendary frontier icon, the homesteader, but ironically, the area is too dry for small farms. Today it consists largely of ranches, timber reserves, and irrigated factory farms dependent on government-subsidized water. This is a colorful, action-packed frontier history in which, many will feel, the bad guys won.



A New look at Lewis and Clark:

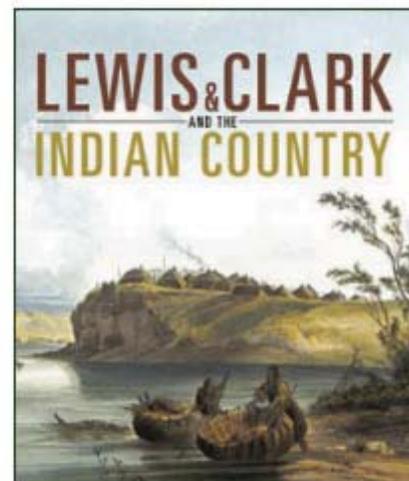
Lewis and Clark's journey across the West is the stuff of American legend.

Schoolchildren learn from an early age about the rivers the explorers navigated and the new animals and plants they described for the folks back East. Kids also learn about the Indians that Lewis and Clark met – notably the Shoshone woman named Sacagawea. But most of them don't hear the story from an Indian perspective. But newsnetnebraska.org reported in November on a traveling exhibition that aims to change that.

“Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country”

is now installed at the University of

Nebraska; it features maps, photographs, and a new look at the people affected by the expedition and the ensuing westward expansion.



Five Native American consultants helped with this project. Otis Halfmoon, one of the consultants, spoke at the University of Nebraska on Oct. 30 about the Nez Perce and their interactions with Lewis and Clark. Halfmoon is a descendant of the Nez Perce Chief Heyuun Pahkit Timna, who met the Corps of Discovery on their return journey from the Pacific Northwest. The exhibit is traveling throughout the U.S. and will be displayed at 23 universities and four tribal centers. There's more info online at tinyurl.com/6bnmve, including a link to an online video about Clark's meeting with the Nez Perce. The traveling exhibit is part of a larger exhibit at Chicago's Newberry Library, which hosts a very informative website at newberry.org/lewisandclark.

More Books:

The Last Indian War: The Nez Perce Story

Elliott West, Oxford University Press \$27.95, 416 pages.

Using historical documents, from government and military records to contemporary interviews and newspaper reports, *The Last Indian War* offers a portrait of emerging American identity, from the time when the idea of who was not a citizen was being forged. The volume is the newest installment in Oxford's "Pivotal Moments in American History" series.

The Power of Promises: Rethinking Indian Treaties in The Pacific Northwest edited by Alexandra Harmon.

University of Washington Press \$28.95, 384 pages.

Treaties with American Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest have had profound and long-lasting implications for land ownership, resource access, and political rights in the United States and Canada. In *The Power of Promises*, a group of scholars, including historians, legal historians, and anthropologists from both sides of the border, discuss the legacies. Topics include the Nez Perce Tribe.

Women and the Wild at Lolo Pass Visitor Center

The Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA) and the Clearwater National Forest hosted an event in September that featured art, history, and storytelling from a woman's point of view. Salish women displayed their art and beadwork, and visitors enjoyed the displays and



Salish artists Sarah Wahl
and her mother, Mary Jane Charlo

Photo courtesy MICHAEL GALLACHER/Missoulian

activities. Salish artists included Mary Jane Charlo, Sarah Wahl, Rachael Bowers, and Sachet Camel Matt.

Mary Jane Charlo taught her daughter, Sarah Wahl, the art of beadwork. They make medicine pouches, moccasins, necklaces, dreamcatchers, crosses, miniature cradleboards, and dolls.

The 59-year-old Charlo began beadwork when she was 7, taught by her mother, according to a report by the *Missoulian*. “I used to do moccasins and stuff,” says Charlo. “I didn't know what I was doing. It was probably pretty ugly.” Today her flatwork and beading are beautiful and intricate, and part of the beauty may shine through because she doesn't usually sell her work. “If I make something really beautiful, it's because it's for my family,” she says. Also featured was a book signing by Jean Carroll, author of *I Never Felt Poor Except in Town: Selway Saga 1932-1948*.

Danna Hartman, from Lolo, is majoring in Recreation Management with an emphasis in Resource Management at the University of Montana. She worked at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center this summer, doing interpretation and visitor information. She has also worked for Idaho State Parks as the Park Interpreter, doing nature hikes, Junior Ranger activities, and campfire programs. At the Visitor Center, she portrayed the character Fannie Colgate, offering a 20-minute presentation to about 20 people.

“This was an excellent way for the Lolo Pass Visitor Center to bring together stories and cultures from different eras of the Clearwater's history,” said Hartman. “Jean Carroll was on site most of the day and sold all of her books. She had many lengthy discussions with people who were interested in her book. This was a great way to incorporate a local author who also has spent many of her days in this neck of the woods.” She said the Salish women were very well received, and visitors especially enjoyed seeing the women demonstrating their bead work.

Hartman said many people made the drive from Missoula. “This is just the kind of thing to help facilitate a strong connection and to foster an educational environment between the Forest Service and its constituents.”

More news from the Clearwater:

NPNHT Interpretation: The Clearwater funded a part-time staff position at the Lolo Pass Visitors' Center to promote NPNHT interpretation. The possibility of assistance in 2009 with interpretive staff funding, perhaps in conjunction with a tribal internship program, at the pass is being discussed.

Lolo Trail Ranger: Interaction with visitors and interpretation of the Lolo section of the Trail is ongoing; logos and signposts were maintained and replaced.

Nez Perce agreement: More than 18 miles of maintenance and naturalization work was completed this year. Force Account Crew: Completed approximately 17 miles of maintenance and naturalization work, for a total accomplished 35 miles.

It's planned that in 2009 funding will be secured for part-time interpretation staffing and/or programs at Lolo Pass, along with placement of the bronze at the Visitors' Center. Vegetative work including weed reduction is another need for 2009 that's being assessed. Plans will also include trail maintenance and naturalization work by the Tribal crew this year, along with erosion control projects in the Musselshell - Camp Martin area and sites between Weitas Meadows and Sherman Peak. Concerns about deferred maintenance of the boardwalks in Weitas Meadows are also under discussion.

Some trail maintenance work on both the Clearwater and Lolo has been through a contract with the Nez Perce Tribe; this has provided field training for tribal members, supported by the NPNHT Administration.

Blooming Camas: Allen Pinkham from the Nez Perce Tribe gave presentations in June on the camas flower at Packer Meadows. His presentation included the importance and use of the camas by the Nez Perce. Hundreds of brochures were distributed, including the Big Hole Visitor Guide, the Nez Perce National Historic Park Visitor Guide, and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation brochure. Visitors also received NPNHT stickers, emblems, and posters. A portable NPNHT display was located outside the Visitors' Center, and staff provided interpretive talks through the summer. For more information, contact Katie Knotek at (208)942-0302.

News from the Lolo NF:

During 2008, the Lolo maintained 14 miles of original tread, along with interpretive signage. A guide brochure is available, along with developed trailheads and both individual and group developed campsites. A Trail Easement was obtained in 2007 from Plum Creek Timber lands for two miles of historic route (Wagon Mountain up Lee Creek and NPNHT behind Lolo Hot Springs).

In 2008 Lolo staff replaced the interpretive sign and kiosk on Highway 12 ("The Lolo Trail") in partnership with the local chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Staff also cooperated with the State Highway Department and Montana Highway Patrol in the investigation concerning the destruction of the previous structure. This work included 24 volunteer hours from the Heritage Foundation in replacing the interpretive sign.

Lolo staff monitored two historic sites along the trail. For FY09 the Lolo plans maintenance and operation of the Trail, trailheads, interpretive sites and publications, and three campgrounds. Weed treatment along the trail and at access points is also planned. FY08 funds totaled \$28,000 and FY09 proposed funds total \$35,500 from the NPNHT Administration.

News from the Bitterroot NF:

About three miles of Trail clearing work was accomplished in 2008, with signing in place. The Chief Joseph Trail Ride this summer will be on the Bitterroot, so it's hoped that maintenance and trail clearing can be accomplished early in the season to ensure that the Trail's in good shape. For more information contact Debra Gale at (406)821-1217.

News from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF:

A partnership work agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe assisted in the completion of a new 4-mile trail creek portion. The B-D hosted and assisted with the summer trail ride for the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club. Numerous NPNHT brochures and other materials were distributed at the Big Hole Battlefield visitors' center toward the end of that trail ride. For more information, call Patty Bates at (406)683-3979.

News from Yellowstone National Park:

Trail-related projects at Yellowstone include the work of a cultural anthropologist who has been collecting pre-war accounts of the Nez Perce in the area, and compiling documents, an historical archives, maps, and images, and organizing the collection into a database available for agency and academic use. Yellowstone staff plan to write updated interpretive material for their website and for way signs. The NPNHT corridor resources have been impacted by increased use and travel in some areas because of increasing public interest in the Nez Perce Trail. Park rangers are spending more time in the area to respond to the increased use. An archaeology inventory has been funded, and more requests have been received for educational tours.



More news from the National Park Service:

The NPS has invested \$380,000 in the design, fabrication, and installation of new exhibits at Big Hole National Battlefield, to expand the story from the soldiers' perspective to a more comprehensive picture. An archaeology study of the Camas Meadows battlefield is also under way, along with a survey of Whitebird Battlefield – with partner funding from the NPNHT. At the Spalding visitor center, NEPE has budgeted \$320,000 for FY10 for a new film and \$800,000 for FY11-12 for new permanent exhibits at Spalding.

Big Hole National Battlefield Commemoration:



The fog over the Big Hole Battlefield on August 9, 2008 resembled smoke on the hills



The empty horse ceremony paid tribute to the fallen ancestors and the battle survivors



Rosa Yearout on Sweetwater and Loretta Sobotta on Prairie Dancer

On August 9, 1877 gunfire shattered the dawn on a sleeping camp of Nez Perce. Colonel John Gibbon and his troops had orders to return the non-treaty Nez Perce to Idaho. Each year, many Nez Perce travel to the Montana battlefields to honor those who fought and died during the conflict of 1877. Events include a riderless horse ceremony, pipe ceremony, and traditional drum circle. The ceremony in 2008 featured horses and riders from the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club.



Horace Axtell and Wilfred "Scotty" Scott led the ceremonies at the Battlefield



Riders with the Nez Perce Appaloosa Horse Club; tipi poles in the distance.

New Superintendent at Big Hole

Stephen Black is the newly appointed superintendent of Big Hole National Battlefield near Wisdom, Montana. Black also will serve as the Unit Manager of the Montana Unit of the Nez Perce National Historical Park. The Unit includes Big Hole Battlefield, Bear Paw Battlefield, Canyon Creek Battle Site, and Camas Meadows Battle Site. Black replaces Tami DeGrosky, who transferred to Mount Rainier National Park in Washington. Black will transfer from Pea Ridge National Military Park in Garfield, Arkansas, where he has served as chief ranger. He was previously historian and chief of interpretation at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Oklahoma, and a park ranger on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. He has a BS in military history from Kansas State University. Welcome to Montana, Steve!



Nez Perce riders at the Big Hole Battlefield, summer 2008.



Old Chief Joseph gravesite at Wallowa Lake

Nez Perce National Historical Park, Wallowa Unit:

The Oregon/Washington Unit of Nez Perce National Historical Park relies upon volunteers for interpretation at park sites in Wallowa County and at Wallowa Lake State Park, through a partnership with Oregon State Parks & Recreation Department.

Last year saw the addition of a towable trailer to contain supplies and cultural objects for presentation, and programs for young audiences were developed. Traffic at the photo exhibits fell off after the closure of the adjacent Manuel Museum, so we discontinued interpretation there. We added contemporary plateau items such as half-scale set nets, full-scale dip nets, and a variety of woven and beaded items. Children's activities are held in a recently acquired tipi.

Last summer we recognized a side benefit of our program – the non-profit church-sponsored group (which has for decades provided educational and interpretive programming at the state park) started to mimic our programs and have introduced some Nez Perce interpretation into their own program.

We consider it significant that the Trail was twice identified by Congress as representative of our nation - first with the creation of the NPNHT, and again in 1992 with the Nez Perce National Historical Park expansion.

We appreciated the donation of coloring books last year, and hope to continue to receive those. They were greatly appreciated by the volunteers, the children, and especially the parents of the children.

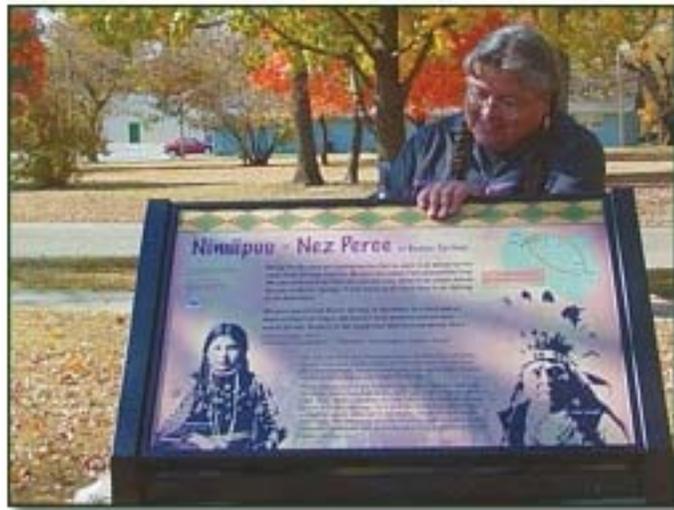
We hope to continue to ensure that the message of both the park and the trail reach the ears of increasing numbers of visitors here.

Northwest Native American Business Directory Feature:

The Nez Perce Trail Extension Project, which has completed several official site certifications, is featured on the cover of the *Northwest Native American Business Directory* published by ONABEN, the Oregon Native American Business Network.

On November 4, 2005, dozens of people gathered at Quapaw, Oklahoma, and Baxter Springs, Kansas, to acknowledge and participate in site certification ceremonies. Two new interpretive panels were installed, commemorating the time during which the Nez Perce were held prisoner in these foreign locations so far from their beloved home.

Dedication of the interpretive panel at Bicentennial Park just outside Quapaw, Oklahoma, was at the riverside area where the Nez Perce were camped from 1878 to 1879. Other photos from the 2005 site certifications in Oklahoma and Kansas are online at www.fs.fed.us/npnht/quapaw/



Brian McCormack installing the sign at the public library at Baxter Springs in 2005

Another interpretive panel was installed on the lawn under the trees at the Johnston Public Library in Baxter Springs, Kansas. A photo from that installation at Baxter Springs is on the front cover of the new Northwest Native American Business Directory.

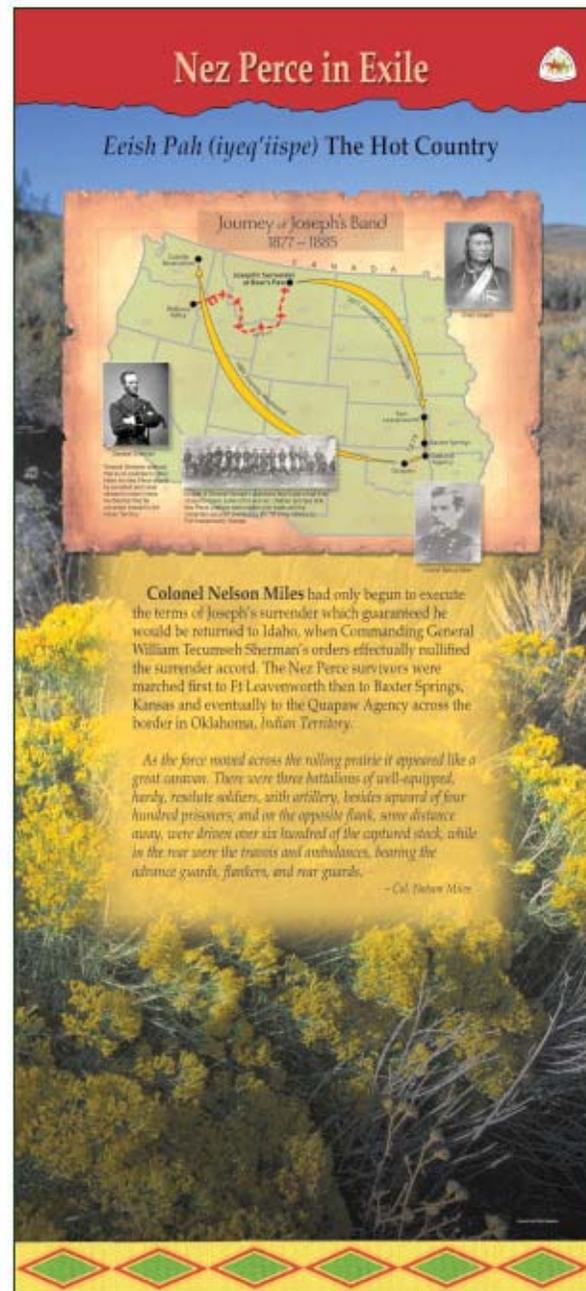
The photo on the ONABEN cover shows the installation of the interpretive sign designed by Brian McCormack, the Nez Perce landscape architect who worked on both projects and designed and installed the signs at these locations. The Northwest Native American Business Directory is online at tinyurl.com/6jlzbc and more information on the Oregon Native American Business Network is at onaben.org

New interpretive and educational materials:

We are completing three small two-sided traveling displays that will cover Fort Vancouver in Washington, Fort Walsh in Canada, and the Nez Perce in Exile. The near-final designs and text for these displays are being fabricated.

NPNHT staff are working with Idaho Fish & Game on an interagency agreement for the design and installation of three new interpretive panels at Tolo Lake near Grangeville, Idaho. The panels focus on “An Ancient Mystery” (about the mammoth discovery at the site), “Gathering at Tepahlewam” (where the bands gathered before going to war), and “In Search of Salmon” (focusing on the Ordway trail).

We also hope to have a new poster out this year, and are coordinating with the Nez Perce Tribe on this and several other projects.

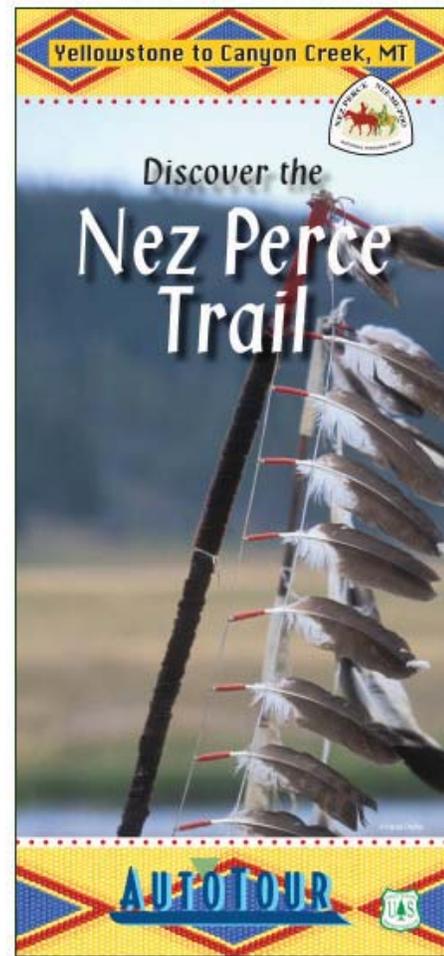


We also have a new Auto Tour brochure under way. It will guide visitors along the Trail route from Yellowstone National Park to Canyon Creek, Montana, and should be distributed in the summer of 2009.

This will be the sixth Auto Tour Brochure in our series, for a total of eight auto tour brochures for visitors traveling by vehicle.

Other notes:

Because the early and severe fire season left Forest Service fire managers strapped for resources this year, Sandi McFarland accepted several fire assignments; she worked on the Hells Half Complex in northern California, the Snowhole Fire in Idaho, and the Ochoco Fire Use in Prineville, Oregon.



Our expanding circle of partners, advocates, and enthusiasts is growing rapidly. Our efforts to reach audiences beyond the Trail corridor have raised awareness of not just the physical trail, but also the somber history and colorful cultures associated with it. In doing so, we increase cultural understanding, further awareness of cultural and emotional ties to the land, and promote trail stewardship and ethical land use to a wide and diverse audience.

Sandi McFarland

ADMINISTRATOR

Nez Perce National Historic Trail

smcfarland01@fs.fed.us
www.fs.fed.us/npnht



(208)476-8334

FAX: 476-8285

(406)370-9905

